

As we honor the memory of the 4,400 Americans who have died in Iraq and the more than 1,000 who have died in Afghanistan we also need to keep our commitment to our nation's 3 million troops and reservists, their families, and 23 million veterans. On the battle field the military pledges to leave no soldier behind. As a grateful nation, it should be our priority to ensure that when they return home, we leave no veteran behind. I am proud to say we have lived up to that promise by doing more for our soldiers and returning veterans than any other Congress in history.

Need Help With the VA?



My office can serve as a primary resource for returning veterans. If you have questions about federal benefits, or are experiencing trouble receiving them please contact my Utica, NY Office at 315-793-8146 or [click here](#) for information on how to submit constituent casework to our office.

Soon after taking office in 2007, I established a Veterans Advisory Committee to assist me in

pursuing the best possible policy for our nation's veterans and serve my liaisons to all veterans in the local community. [Read More](#)

Providing an Education

In 2008, Congress enacted the Post-9/11 GI Bill, which restored the promise of a full, four year college education, allowing more than 2 million veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan to be part of a new American economic recovery, just like after World War II. Earlier this year, we have rightfully extended those crucial college benefits to all children of fallen service members since 9/11.

Recently, I cosponsored the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act (H.R. 5933), which provides more resources and opportunity to veterans who were previously excluded from GI Bill benefits. This legislation expands benefits to include vocational schools, apprenticeships and on-the-job training and grants full GI Bill credit to National Guardsmen who have responded to national disasters. Additionally, it expands and simplifies the Yellow Ribbon Program for veterans who choose to attend private, graduate or out-of-state schools, while providing all student veterans with a 30% increase in the monthly living allowance.

For more information, call toll free 1-888-GI-BILL-1 (1-888-442-4551) to speak with a Veterans Benefits Counselor, OR visit: www.gibill.va.gov/

